



OLYMPIC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ATHLETES “RIO 2016”

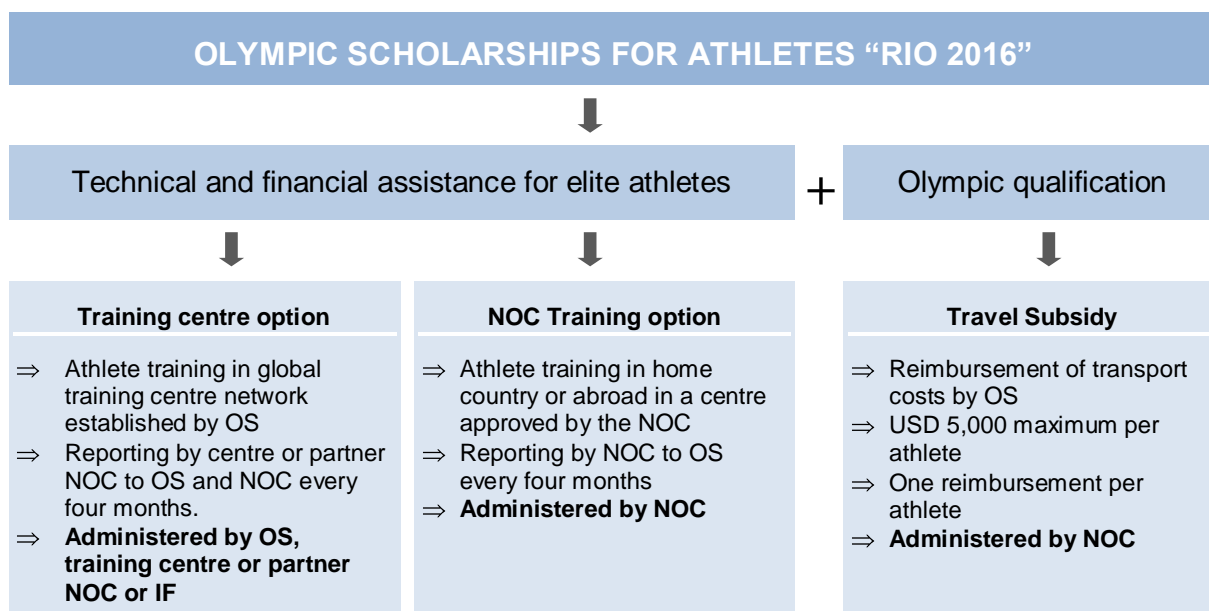
PROGRAMME GUIDELINES

OBJECTIVE

To assist elite athletes selected and proposed by their respective National Olympic Committees (NOCs) in their preparation and qualification for the Games of the XXXI Olympiad, Rio 2016, with a particular focus on athletes and NOCs with the greatest needs.

DESCRIPTION

The Olympic scholarship programme offers NOCs the possibility to obtain financial and technical assistance for a limited number of elite athletes who are training, and attempting to qualify, for the Rio Olympic Games.



CONTENT OF AN OLYMPIC SCHOLARSHIP

Should an athlete be awarded an Olympic scholarship, the NOC or training centre will ensure that he/she benefits from funding for items such as:



- Access to appropriate training facilities
- A coach specialised in the relevant sporting discipline
- Regular medical and scientific assistance and control
- Accident and illness insurance
- Board and lodging costs
- Adequate pocket money
- A fixed subsidy to offset travel costs to participate in the required international Olympic qualification competitions
- Access to technical information on the Rio Olympic Games

The budget distribution and items to be covered by the scholarships must be agreed upon by the athlete, National Federation (NF) and NOC in the scholarship contract.

ATHLETE TRAINING OPTIONS

In its decision to allocate an Olympic scholarship, Olympic Solidarity will strive to ascertain the optimum training environment for each athlete. Olympic Solidarity's decision as to whether athletes will train in their home country or abroad in a high-level training centre will be exclusively focused upon the needs of the athlete and the requirements of his/her sport. The principal partners in this decision process will be the NOC and training centres.

Two training options exist:

A) TRAINING CENTRE OPTION

Olympic Solidarity will assist certain scholarship holders to train in an international high-level training centre with which Olympic Solidarity has a service agreement for this programme. The agreements should enable athletes to access training in most of the popular sports. There are three types of options available:

- **Partner NOCs:** Olympic Solidarity has agreements with a number of NOCs which have a well developed training structure to place athletes in their high-performance training centre network.
- **Partner IFs:** Olympic Solidarity has agreements with a number of International Federations to place athletes in their training centre network.
- **Individual training centres:** Olympic Solidarity has entered into a limited number of service agreements with specialised training centres.

The choice of the high-level training centre will be determined by Olympic Solidarity in collaboration with the NOC and, where need be, the Continental Association concerned on the basis of the personal profile of the athletes and their sporting needs. In these cases, responsibility for the administration (technical and financial) of the Olympic scholarship will lie primarily with the training centre.

Further information on the training centre network is available upon request from Olympic Solidarity before and during the allocation of the scholarships.



B) NOC TRAINING OPTION

Olympic Solidarity recognises that a majority of athletes are training within an environment in which they feel comfortable and which offers all the necessary facilities. This environment is normally within their national territory; however, in some particular circumstances, it could be in an independent training centre overseas that is not part of the training centre network noted above.

In this option, responsibility for the administration of the Olympic scholarship and training location will lie exclusively with the NOC.

The basis of calculation for an “NOC training option” per athlete, per month, will be negotiable, and will be dependent upon the cost of training the athlete in his/her chosen training environment (i.e. in their home country or abroad).

OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION PROCESS

Since the principal objective of this programme is the participation of the Olympic scholarship holders in the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, Olympic Solidarity will offer each athlete a fixed travel subsidy of up to USD 5,000 to cover transport costs (including transport of equipment) to participate in Olympic qualification competitions. All other costs (entry fees, board and lodging, coach’s travel, etc.) relating to participation in the competition must be covered by the monthly scholarship.

For athletes benefiting from the training centre option, all costs are included in the total budget agreed upon with the training centre, and the budget is managed directly by the centre. The scholarship holders and their training centres are expected to coordinate with the NFs for the entry of the athletes in the qualification competitions.

Athletes who manage to qualify and who are entered to participate in the Rio Olympic Games by their NOC will have their scholarships confirmed up until 31 August 2016. Scholarships awarded to athletes who fail to qualify for the Rio Olympic Games will be withdrawn as of the date of their final qualification opportunity.

EXTERNAL PARTNERS

The Summer Olympic International Federations will assist Olympic Solidarity in the analysis of the NOC candidatures by offering technical advice and in the follow-up of the results of the athletes who are awarded scholarships.

Olympic Solidarity will work with certain partner NOCs, IFs and independent training centres to provide training opportunities to the scholarship holders.

BENEFICIARIES

NOC AND ATHLETE PROFILE

This programme aims to promote universal representation at the Olympic Games. Consequently, candidates from NOCs that have traditionally sent small delegations to the Games will be prioritised. Olympic Solidarity intends to apply the principle of solidarity when allocating scholarships by favouring the NOCs with the greatest needs.



Athletes must have the following profile to be considered for a scholarship:

- **Olympic sport:** An international-level athlete practising an individual sport included on the Olympic programme.
- **Technical level:** The athlete must have a sufficient level to be able to qualify for the Rio Olympic Games. Proof of the athlete's technical sports level must be shown through results obtained at national and international competitions.

Top-level athletes such as Olympic medallists or world champions may be put forward by their NOC for an Olympic scholarship. However, these candidatures will be specifically reviewed on a case-by-case basis with Olympic Solidarity's technical partners to decide whether these athletes' profiles are compatible with the objectives of the programme.

- **Access to training funds:** Only athletes to whom a scholarship will make a significant difference to their training, and who do not have access to alternative means of paying for their preparation, may be put forward by their NOC/NF for a scholarship.
- **Ethics:** Athletes who have been convicted of a doping offence or sanctioned for actions contrary to the standards of sporting ethics as established by the Olympic Charter, the IOC, NOCs or training centres may not be put forward as scholarship candidates.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

NOCs may submit candidatures for scholarships by using the attached application form (Annex 1).

- The maximum number of candidatures that an NOC can submit for Olympic Solidarity to choose from is 15. To facilitate this process, we ask the NOCs to make a pre-selection to limit their applications in accordance with to the eligibility criteria noted above.
- Olympic Solidarity asks the NOCs to create an order of priority for the candidates submitted.
- The NOCs must make every effort to submit an equitable balance of male and female candidates.

ANALYSIS AND APPROVAL

Olympic Solidarity will analyse each candidature submitted in collaboration with the relevant IFs and, if needed, the respective Continental Association of the NOC.

Olympic Solidarity will be responsible for the final approval of the Olympic scholarships and of the training option for the athletes.

Each athlete awarded a scholarship will be required to sign a contract with his/her NOC and NF that will clearly list the responsibilities of each party and the monthly budget distribution of the scholarship.



FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

The budget allocated to this programme for the 2013–2016 quadrennial plan is USD 22,000,000.

BUDGET ALLOCATION

1. TRAINING CENTRE OPTION

Olympic Solidarity will negotiate a fixed monthly rate with the training centres with which an agreement is signed, and will make all payments relating to athletes in the centre directly to the centre. In addition, Olympic Solidarity will reimburse a return air ticket in economy class for the scholarship holder to travel to and from the centre.

2. NOC TRAINING OPTION

Experience has shown that the cost of athlete training varies widely between regions of the world. Therefore, Olympic Solidarity and the NOC will agree upon the monthly amount of the scholarship per athlete per month. The number of scholarships allocated to an NOC will depend upon the amount offered to each athlete. Olympic Solidarity will make all payments relating to this training option directly to the NOC, which will then administer the scholarship holder funds regardless of where the athletes are training.

3. TRAVEL SUBSIDY

During the full period of the programme, a maximum travel subsidy of USD 5,000 will be available to each scholarship holder, under the NOC training option, to cover transport costs for participation in Olympic qualification events. NOCs may claim this travel subsidy once during the course of the programme by providing copies of the relevant air tickets (Annex 3) once the maximum budget is attained for the relevant athlete or at the end of the qualification period.

FOLLOW-UP AND CONTROL

Olympic Solidarity requires the evaluation form (Annex 2) to be submitted every four months, from the scholarship award date, by either the NOC or the training centre, to monitor each athlete's progress towards Olympic qualification. This form includes a financial statement to be signed by the athlete, NF and NOC confirming the distribution of scholarship funds as agreed in the contract.

TERMINATION OF AN OLYMPIC SCHOLARSHIP

Olympic Solidarity reserves the right to withdraw the scholarship from any athlete in the following cases:

- non-qualification for the Rio Olympic Games;
- decline of technical level;
- medical reason that prevents the athlete from training;
- unethical behaviour (doping, discipline, etc.)
- breach of the athlete/NF/NOC contract or Olympic Charter
- any other reason in mutual agreement with the NOC or the training centre



TIMELINE

This programme will be operational from 1 September 2014 until 31 August 2016:

- March 2014: launch of the application procedure
- 1 June 2014: deadline for submitting applications to OS to be included in the first batch of allocations (starting on 1 September 2014)
- 1 September 2014: programme operational and first batch of scholarships activated
- 1 January 2015: second batch of scholarships activated

Please note that additional allocation dates may be decided by OS according to the number and timing of applications received as well as budget availability. However, since just one scholarship allocation will be made per NOC these additional dates will be only for NOCs that did not submit requests in time to benefit from a previous batch.